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Book Reviews

The First Year of Greek. By JAMES TURNER ALLEN. New York: Macmillan, 1917. 12mo., pp. ix+375. \$1.30.

The history of the Greek primer in America during the nineteenth century is a tale of restriction of the field up to a point where finally the whole attention was directed to one work of a single author. Our grandfathers began their reading with two books, the *Greek Testament* and the *Graeca Minora*, which contained selections from Aesop, Hierocles, Lucian, Plutarch, and Xenophon (Cyropaedeia), not to mention *Anacreontics*, Alexandrian idyls, and *Cebes' Tablet*. In our day the pupil's efforts were confined to four books of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, for which the way had been carefully prepared by a beginner's book with vocabularies and exercises especially designed for training in Xenophon's military vocabulary. The last years have witnessed a reaction in the direction of the older method. There has arisen a demand for a richer, more varied course, a course which shall be not only a preparation for later reading but in some sense an end in itself. At the same time there has appeared, with the introduction of elementary Greek into the college curriculum, a maturer class of pupils with linguistic faculties already trained.

Professor Allen's *First Year of Greek* seeks to meet this situation. The book has been developed, he tells us, from a series of lessons and exercises, prepared more than eight years ago and annually revised with successive classes, till they have been used with more than three hundred students, by five different teachers, both in preparatory school and college. The general program of this course was set forth in an article in the *Classical Journal*, X (1915), 262-66. The book aims at being an introduction, not to Xenophon's *Anabasis*, but to Greek literature. We begin as did our grandfathers with the introductory verses of the *Gospel of John*; and we meet passages from the *New Testament* here and there throughout the volume. Here too are fables from Aesop and *Anacreontics*, as in the old *Graeca Minora*. Here are passages of considerable length from Plato, Xenophon's *Memorabilia*, Herodotus, and sentences from Aristotle, Plutarch, Epictetus. We may open our eyes a bit at the appearance of three propositions from Euclid in the earlier part of the course; but a little examination shows how admirably adapted the geometrical demonstration is to illustrate the uses of the Greek moods and the meaning of sundry particles, as well as to give practice in the inflections of the voice which accompany these. Verse is not neglected. Short quotations from the tragedians, proverbs from Menander and the New Comedy, snatches from the *Anthology* and the old lyric poets, are a prominent feature. Pains also are taken that the student should

know something about these manifold authors whose words he finds before him. Early in the course his attention is directed to a vocabulary of proper names at the end of the book, where the necessary information is provided in a convenient form. No opportunity is lost to bring about familiarity with Greek terms, letters, numerals. Thus the titles of the lessons and of their various parts are given in Greek and their numbers are indicated by the alphabetical symbols as well as the Greek names. Capital letters appear constantly. A number of inscriptions of various periods serve to prevent erroneous impressions as to the way in which Greek was originally written. A grammar of over a hundred pages makes up the second part of the book. There is also a series of ingenious exercises, which supply stimulating hints as to methods of instruction. On the conclusion of these eighty lessons the student will not only have had a thorough course in the grammatical forms of the language, but will have come into contact with a great wealth of Hellenic ideas from many authors and many periods.

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The Greek Genius and Its Influence: Selected Essays and Extracts.

Edited, with an Introduction, by LANE COOPER, PH.D., Professor of the English Language and Literature, Cornell University. Yale University Press. \$3.50.

This book is of especial interest to students of the classics as originating in the mind of one interested, not in ancient languages primarily, but in English and the influence of ancient literature upon English. In editing this composite work Professor Cooper has shown a true eye for literary value by the scope and repute of the sources drawn upon. Jebb, Gildersleeve, Rand, Gilbert Murray, Croiset, August Boeckh, and von Wilamowitz-Moellendorf are names that speak well for content, and the whole prose structure is illuminated with extracts from such poets as Wordsworth, Browning, and Milton. The editor's own Introduction has a fulness of vision that commends itself to the reader. C. G. Osgood's article on "Milton's Use of Classical Mythology" is not least in importance. Von Wilamowitz is always original and inspiring, making you think even though you disagree with his conclusions, and this short article is no exception. By far the longest of the selections is the editor's translation from Boeckh's *Encyclopädie und Methodologie der philologischen Wissenschaften*, which he considers "a touchstone for the worth of other characterizations of antiquity." It is by no means free from statements that have not stood the test of scholarship, and many would rank it much lower than has the editor, but that it is a work of value and importance no one would deny, and this translation should bring it within the easy reach of many to whom it would otherwise be inaccessible.